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C. W. McClure presented a paper on "The Ox Worble," with especial reference to the damage it does by spoiling the hides of cattle in this vicinity. E. R. Quick read a paper on "Rats." He gave the date of the appearance of the common rat, as near as could be ascertained, in this vicinity, noted some of their habits, and gave special attention to the appearance of these animals within the past winter in unusual numbers at many points in the Ohio Valley. The following subjects were also presented by C. W. McClure, "The Early Blooming of Flowers," and "The Hibernation of Water Snakes (*Trop. sipedon*). By Edw. Hughes, "On the Occurrence of *Hyla pickeringii* and *Chorophilus triseriatus* in Franklin County, Indiana." By E. R. Quick, "Notes on the Breeding Habits of *Hyla versicolor*."

SCIENTIFIC NEWS.

Edmond Hébert.—Died April 4th, 1890, Edmond Hébert, Professor of Geology in the Sorbonne, Dean of the Scientific Faculty of Paris, and member of the Institute of France. Prof. Hébert was three times President of the Geological Society of France, and was the first President of the International Congress of Geologists. He was born at Villefargeau, near Auxerre, and his father was a soldier of the republic and of the empire. Hébert was the most accomplished stratigraphic geologist of France, and perhaps of Europe, especially in the Cænozoic and Mesozoic departments. He was the author of many important papers and memoirs. He was a man of much energy and also amiability of character, traits which were exhibited in his personal appearance and manners.

Sir Richard Owen was recently attacked by paralysis, a circumstance which gave rise to premature reports of his death. At last accounts he was slowly recovering, but at his advanced age his situation is regarded as serious.

During this the third season the Marine Biological Laboratory will have the following corps of instructors: Dr. C. O. Whitman, Director, Howard Ayers, H. C. Bumpus, E. G. Gardiner, J. S. Kingsley, J. Playfair McMurrich, W. M. Rankin, W. A. Setchell.

The laboratory is located on the coast at Wood's Holl, near the laboratories of the United States Fish Commission. It has added to it this year a library, a lecture-room, and six more private laboratories.

The building consists of two stories : the lower for students receiving instruction, the upper exclusively for investigators. The laboratory has aquaria supplied with running sea water, boats, collecting apparatus, and dredges ; it will also be supplied with reagents, glassware, and a limited number of microtomes and microscopes. By the munificence of friends the library will be provided henceforth not only with the ordinary text-books and works of reference, but also with the more important journals of zoology and botany, some of them in complete series.

The laboratory for investigators will be open from June 2d to August 30th. It will be fully equipped with aquaria, glassware, reagents, etc., but microscopes and microtomes will not be provided. There are fourteen private laboratories supplied with aquaria, running water, etc., for the exclusive use of investigators who are invited to carry on their researches here free of charge. Those who are prepared to begin original work, but require supervision, special suggestions, criticism, or extended instruction in technique, may occupy tables in the general laboratory for investigators, paying for the privileges a fee of fifty dollars. The number of such tables is limited to ten. Applicants for them should state precisely what they have done in preparation for original work, and whether they can bring a complete outfit, viz. : microscope, microtome, camera-lucida, etc.

The laboratory for students will be opened on Wednesday, July 9th, for regular courses of seven weeks in Marine Zoology and Botany, and Microscopical Technique. It is desired that students owning microscopes or microtomes should bring them, and applicants for admission should state whether this requirement can be complied with. The fee for workers in this department is twenty-five dollars, payable in advance. The number of students will be limited to thirty, and preference will be given to teachers or others already qualified. By permission of the Director, students may begin their individual work as early as June 15th, without extra charge, but the regular courses of instruction will not begin before July 9th. In addition to the regular courses of instruction, consisting of lectures and laboratory work under the direct and constant supervision of the instructors, there will be two or more courses of lectures on special subjects by members of the staff. One such course of six lectures will be given by Dr. McMurrich on the *Hydrozoa*. Similar courses on the *Crustacea* and *Echinoderms* will be given by Prof. Kingsley and Dr. Rankin. There will also be ten or more evening lectures on biological subjects of general interest. The first of these will be given by Dr. Whitman on July 9th.

Applications for places in either department should be addressed to Miss A. D. Phillips, Secretary, 23 Marlborough Street, Boston.

Rooms accommodating two persons may be obtained near the laboratory, at prices varying from \$2.00 to \$4.00 a week, and board from \$4.50 to \$6.00. By special arrangement, board will be supplied to members in the laboratory cottage at \$5.50 a week. For information in regard to rooms, inquiries may be addressed, after May 1st, to Mr. H. C. Bumpus, M.B.L., Wood's Holl, Mass.